

history of the ancient commonwealth of Franklin, embracing the civil and military transactions of its government, during that period of our political orphanage, sketches of the lives of all eminent personages, who have lived in the State, or who are identified with its history, and the private papers and letters of the leaders of the day, and files of early newspapers and journals that may illustrate it.

The Committee acknowledge with great satisfaction the contribution to the Library and Museum of the Society, from some of its honorary members and similar associations abroad, of rare and valuable books, pamphlets, manuscripts, relics, curiosities, etc., they invite to its collection like additions from the liberal and curious.

As a further means of promoting the objects of the Association, they beg leave to suggest the formation of County Lyceums, auxiliary to it.

The task of rescuing from oblivion the early history of Tennessee is not without its difficulties. Much of it is already forgotten, or but indistinctly remembered, or handed down by vague and uncertain tradition. No archives of State, no portfolios of Ministers will assist our investigations. The narratives of our oldest citizens who have "*ab urbe condita*," resided in the country, must be procured, the papers of their deceased contemporaries which may have survived the ravages of time or accident, must be examined. The emergency admits of no delay. Whatever can be done in this laudible undertaking, must be done soon. The slow, but certain, operation of time is yearly removing from the theatre on which they have so long and so nobly acted, many who could have given valuable additions to our knowledge of the *past*. In a few years more, the last of these venerable relics of another age will have retired from the scenes of earth, and their lamp of life, already feeble and flickering, be extinguished forever, by the dampness of the grave. Let us hasten to redeem the time that is lost. From every citizen we expect a whisper of encouragement. From the intelligent and enlightened we allow ourselves to hope essential and efficient assistance. Upon our members we depend for prompt and active co-operation. We appeal to the gratitude of every son of Tennessee; we appeal to his State preferences and to his ancestral pride.

By order of the Executive Committee.

J. G. M. RAMSEY,  
Cor. Sec. E. T. H. & A. S.